

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01798 270751Z
ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7634

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1798

FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

REF: STATE 90643

1. HAVE HAD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH BUSINESS LEADER CONCERNING VISIT TO SINGAPORE OF CHICAGO SYMPHONY OR OTHER MAJOR ORCHESTRA. BASIC PURPOSE IS TO EXPOSE SINGAPOREANS TO BEST OF AMERICAN CULTURE IN A FORM THAT WOULD BE EASILY ACCEPTED, I.E. A LARGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. IDEA IS AS FOLLOWS: SHOULD CHICAGO OR OTHER ORCHESTRA BE AVAILABLE FOR ON MONTH IN 1978 OR 1979, THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITIES OF SINGAPORE, MANILA, JAKARTA, BANGKOK, HONG KONG, AND TAIPEI WOULD BE APPROACHED TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TOWARD THE COST OF THE TOUR. IF ONLY TWO WEEKS AVAILABLE THEN LIST WOULD BE CUT TO SINGAPORE, MANILA, AND BANGKOK. QUESTION TO US WAS IF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WOULD SUPPORT SUCH AS EFFORT WITH A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT, E.G. US\$100,000 IN SINGAPORE ALONE, WOULD CU/ARTS BE ABLE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION? THIS CONTRIBUTION WOULD PROBABLY BE IN THE FORM OF AIR TRAVEL COSTS. ALL CONCERT AND IN-COUNTRY COSTS WOULD BE BORNE BY THE LOCAL AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. BUSINESSMAN WE SPOKE TO IS QUITE CONFIDENT THAT

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SHOULD THE CHICAGO OR OTHER ORCHESTRA BE AVAILABLE AND INTERESTED HE COULD RAISE A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY. IDEA IS TO MAKE IT AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY ACTIVITY SO THAT ALL AMERICAN COMPANIES HOWEVER SMALL, WOULD BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE.

2. BEFORE APPROACHING AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL OUR BUSINESS

CONTACT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME COST FIGURES. HOW MUCH WOULD THE CHICAGO, OR BOSTON, OR OTHER ORCHESTRA, CHARGE FOR ONE MONTH, OR TWO WEEKS IN ASIA? HOW MANY MUSICIANS USUALLY TOUR WITH THE ORCHESTRA, ARE THERE HIDDEN COSTS NOT READILY APPARENT TO US? WE AWARE OF COSTS SUCH AS SHIPPING OF INSTRUMENTS, AND PER DIEM. CAN YOU GIVE US ESTIMATE OF SHIPPING COSTS FROM U.S., AND FROM TOKYO.

3. OUR VIEW IS THAT GIVEN CU OBJECTIVE OF ENCOURAGING AMERICAN FIRMS ABROAD TO GET INVOLVED IN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST WITH SOME FUNDING WHEN THESE FIRMS GET BEHIND AN IDEA SUCH AS THIS AND SUPPORT IT FINANCIALLY.

4. PROPOSAL WILL BE PUT TO AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL END OF NEXT WEEK SO WE NEED COST FIGURES FOR PRESENTATION. WE REALIZE THAT WILL BE SOME GUESS-WORK, BUT BASIC NEED IS TO GET IDEA ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF PROJECT BASED ON ESTIMATE OF COSTS. THANKS.
GRANT

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